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CCAO
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO
COUNTIES CURRENT

Feb. 14, 2022

Ohio members of the NACo Human Services & Education Policy Committee at the NACo Legislative Conference

Pictured: Joy Bivens, Franklin County deputy administrator; Ashtabula County Commissioner Kathryn Whittington; Warren County Commissioner Shannon Jones; Debbie Lieberman, CCAO president and Montgomery County commissioner; Franklin County Commissioner Erica Crawley; and Michelle Niedermier, Montgomery County Job and Family Services director

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County News

A weekly look at news throughout Ohio's 88 counties

Did You Know? - Cuyahoga County

Statehouse Report

Check out the Statehouse Report for the CCAO Policy Team's updates about legislative activity affecting Ohio's counties.

Job Postings

CCAO publishes classified ads on our website free of charge as a service to counties. When submitting your ad to CCAO, please provide a link to the online job posting and a deadline date. Email your classified ad to Communications Coordinator Andrew Johnson.

Print Version

Dates to Remember

CCAO releases winter edition of County Leader

CCAO has published the Winter Edition of the County Leader, the association's quarterly e-magazine. Click here to open the first issue of 2022! Inside you'll find a number of stories with timely and pertinent information to counties, including:

- A Message from 2022 CCAO President Debbie Lieberman, Montgomery County Commissioner
- Letter from CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler
- CCAO Releases New Manual on County Authority Over Renewable Energy Projects
- Partnership Building – What Counties are Saying About State Investments in Jail Facilities
- CCAO Dedicates Vibrant, Interactive County Display in Ohio Statehouse Map Room
- CCAO and CEAO Host Successful In-Person Conference
- Addressing the Needs of Ohio's Multi-System Adults
- CCAO Peer Learning Community Focuses on Early Childhood Policy
- Voice of County Leadership: Ty Moore, Noble County Commissioner
- The State of Washington County in 2022
- Home Grown – How Agriculture Shapes Commissioner Champ Henson's Outlook on Community, Public Service
- CCAO Legislative Priorities: Looking Backward Four Decades
- An Update From CEBCO
- Jim Hale, CORSA Risk Control Consultant: Going Above & Beyond for 15 Years
- Contribution Limits Announced for 2022
- ARPA Final Rule – The "B-sides Collection" – Funding Capital Projects

Please reach out to CCAO Communications Coordinator and Editor Andrew Johnson at ajohnson@ccao.org or 614-203-8920 with feedback and article ideas.

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CCAO releases Comparison of Ohio Procurement Law and Federal Uniform Guidance document

CCAO published the Comparison of Ohio Procurement Law and Federal Uniform Guidance on the CCAO website. This document, developed by the Bricker & Eckler law firm at CCAO's request, is a reference guide that compares state and federal procurement rules. As you develop plans for using ARPA funds, please keep in mind that counties must continue to follow federal Uniform Guidance rules even when using the $10 million standard allowance for revenue replacement. As a general rule, when state and federal rules conflict, the county should use the most restrictive option. For example, for purchases with a cost between $10,000 and $50,000, federal law requires solicitation of an adequate number of price quotes.

This inconsistency can be remedied by the County raising the micro-purchase threshold to $50,000 through a self-certification process. Also, please note that the Ohio Attorney General has opined that purchases made through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services state term schedule do not comply with the competitive solicitation requirements of federal Uniform Guidance. After a vendor is selected, contract language must contain the specific provisions listed in 2 CFR 200, Appendix II, except that Davis-Bacon Act provisions do not apply to purchases made solely with ARPA dollars. State prevailing wage will continue apply.

Bricker & Eckler is working on a series of Frequently Asked Questions that will be available later this month, and will provide a webinar focused on construction law.

Additional resources are available on the CCAO website, Local Fiscal Recovery Fund page, ARPA Symposium documents, and the CCAO 2021 Winter Conference page.

Please contact Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck with any questions, jhoneck@ccao.org.

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Save the Date: OCCO Legislative Reception – April 6 at 5 p.m.

The Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) is hosting a legislative reception on April 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. for county elected officials and members of the 134th Ohio General Assembly. Statewide office holders will be invited.

OCCO is an organization that strives to unite the various associations representing county auditors, commissioners, clerk of courts, coroners, engineers, prosecuting attorneys, recorders, treasurers, sheriffs and judges in order to promote sound, efficient and fiscally responsible government.

Please contact CCAO Boards' Liaison & Events Manager Robin Garrett at (614) 220-0653 if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Temporary virtual meeting authority legislation headed to Governor DeWine's desk

This week the Ohio General Assembly passed legislation which would temporarily resume the ability for public bodies to conduct virtual public meetings and hearings.

Two weeks ago, the Senate Ways and Means Committee added an amendment to House Bill 51 to allow public bodies to once again conduct virtual meetings until June 30, 2022. The legislation passed out of the Senate with unanimous support shortly thereafter.

This week, the Ohio House concurred with the Senate's amendments to HB 51, sending the legislation to Governor Mike DeWine's desk. Included in HB 51 is an emergency clause, which would make the virtual meeting provision effective immediately upon the governor's signature. The legislation provides the same authority that public bodies had earlier during the COVID-19 pandemic, but which had expired on July 1, 2021. Members may review the requirements of this authority in CCAO's previously-published virtual meeting advisory bulletin.

CCAO deeply appreciates the Ohio House and Senate, especially Speaker Cupp and Senate President Huffman, for passing this important legislation. Utilizing virtual meeting technology has proven to be not only an effective tool for protecting public health throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but it also has shown to increase county government efficiency while promoting civic engagement.

CCAO will make members aware as soon as Governor DeWine takes action on the bill. Until the bill is signed by the governor, public meetings are still required to be conducted in-person.

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Information about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

The US Department of Transportation has provided the PowerPoint slides from last week's webinar presentation by Senator Sherrod Brown and USDOT Deputy Assistant Secretary Charles Small on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and its impact on Ohio. The following websites provide additional resources:

White House Guidebook: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA_FINAL.pdf
USDOT Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Website: https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law
State and Local Bipartisan Infrastructure Law 101 Webinars: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLE0JbKk9QnJ2_Cqh_CwQS4PFmkmUwy2if
State by State Fact Sheets: https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/usdot-releases-state-state-fact-sheets-highlighting-benefits-bipartisan
Monthly Office Hours and Bi-Weekly Check-Ins for Local Govs: Intergov@dot.gov
Text of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr3684/BILLS-117hr3684enr.pdf
National Association of Counties Analysis of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

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NACo publishes legislative analysis on The Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

On Nov. 15, President Biden signed the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA/P.L. 117-58), enacting the legislation into law following a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives, where the legislative package passed 228-206 earlier that month. These final steps follow the August 10th U.S. Senate passage of the bill in a strongly bipartisan vote of 69-30.

The bipartisan infrastructure law provides $973 billion over five years from FY 2022 through FY 2026, including $550 billion in new investments for all modes of transportation, water, power and energy, environmental remediation, public lands, broadband and resilience. In addition to providing authorizations for a wide variety of programs, the IIJA also makes advanced appropriations over a number of years to several federal agencies. Typically, federal appropriations are made over one fiscal year by an appropriations act or an omnibus. Currently, federal appropriations are being governed by a Continuing Resolution through February 18, 2022.

Counties play a major role in America's transportation and infrastructure network, owning and operating 44 percent of public roads and 38 percent of bridges -- more than any other level of government. Simultaneously, counties directly support 78 percent of public transit systems and 34 percent of airports that keep our residents connected in every corner of the country. Each year, counties invest $134 billion in the construction of infrastructure and the maintenance and operation of public works.

To view the complete analysts, click here.

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Explore NACo's analysis of the Final Rule for the Fiscal Recovery Fund

On Jan. 6, the U.S. Treasury Department released the Final Rule for the State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund. The Final Rule will go into effect on April 1, 2022, however, counties can pursue the Final Rule's new flexibilities and simplifications now.

NACo worked closely with Treasury to ensure county recommendations and priorities were included in the Final Rule.

EXPLORE NACo's ANALYSIS OF THE FINAL RULE | NACo RECOVERY FUND RESOURCE HUB

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2022 NACo Achievement Awards applications now open

Applications are now open for the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2022 Achievement Awards. Please join us in celebrating 52 years of county innovation by applying today.

Since 1970, the NACo Achievement Awards have recognized outstanding county government programs and services. Through a non-competitive application process, noteworthy programs receive awards in 18 categories that cover a vast range of county responsibilities. By participating, your county can earn national recognition.

NACo will highlight the 18 "best of category" winners, as well as feature all winners in NACo materials and online. We also provide a customizable press release for you to share the good news with the media and residents.

EARLY BIRD APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 4, 2022 (save $25 off the application fee)
REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2022

For more information, please review the Achievement Awards online brochure, or email awards@naco.org with any questions.

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Ohio EMA publishes info on COVID-19 funding opportunities through FEMA Public Assistance Program

Visit the Ohio Emergency Management Agency's COVID-19 webpage for information relating to grant funding availability through FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program. The PA program is a legacy program, meaning it was in place prior to COVID-19 and is traditionally made available following natural disasters. Under Training, the first two bullets are a recorded webinar and PowerPoint presentation that outlines the application process, eligibility, etc.

Contact the Ohio EMA Disaster Recovery Branch at emarecovery@dps.ohio.gov if you have any questions.

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Ohio Safety Congress & Expo virtual event March 9-10

The BWC will host the Ohio Safety Congress & Expo March 9-10, 2022 as an *online-only event* with dozens of learning sessions and a digital expo, allowing participants to chat virtually with vendors about new and existing products and services.

Many sessions will qualify for the 2-hour Group Retro and Group Rating annual safety training requirement.

By attending the safety congress, you will learn to:

- Prevent workplace injuries and illnesses.
- Achieve better outcomes for injured workers.
- Reduce workers' compensation claims costs.
- Keep Ohio's work force healthy and productive.

Registration is free and is now open.

If you have any questions, please call 1-800-644-6292 or check the Safety Congress website https://www.ohiosafetycongress.com/index.cfm

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2022 Ohio Land Bank Association Conference - April 27 through April 29

Ohio Land Banks Association and Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity announced that the 2022 Ohio Land Bank Association Conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio at the Huntington Convention Center.

Pre-conference activities, including mobile tours, begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27 with the official conference kick-off taking place on Thursday, April 28 and concluding on Friday, April 29, 2022.

Please visit the Ohio Land Bank Association website at www.ohiolandbanks.org for conference details.

You can register today using this link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/11th-annual-ohio-land-bank-conference-2022-tickets-238342808757

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Sarah Norman at snorman@cuyahogalandbank.org

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Ohio EPA to host Preparing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP Tips) webinar – Feb. 24

Join the Ohio EPA for a Preparing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP Tips) webinar on Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. Do you need to develop a SWPPP to comply with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System industrial stormwater permit? Learn the elements of a SWPPP and mistakes to avoid.

Click here to register.

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OhioRISE wants to hear from you, schedules listening sessions for February

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) and Aetna, Better Health of Ohio are hosting OhioRISE listening sessions in February 2022.

OhioRise is a partnership between Aetna and the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) that provides behavioral health services and supports to children and youth and their families. This program will start on 7/1/2022.

During the OhioRISE listening sessions, participants will give their recommendations and feedback on improving the youth, family and provider journey to best support youth and families starting in July 2022. The important feedback gathered during listening sessions will be reviewed and may influence implementation, policy, and process development to ensure a more comprehensive readiness before go-live.

Dates are Feb. 15 at 6 to 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 17 at 12 to 1:30 p.m.; and Feb. 23 at 6 to 7:30 p.m.

If you are interested in joining one of the sessions, you can register at https://occrra.org/about/ohiorise-aetna-better-health-of-ohio/

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County News

Paulding commissioners discuss broadband projects
The Crescent-News, Feb. 10, 2022
Paulding County is ramping up efforts to improve internet broadband service in certain areas.

County commissioners discussed broadband initiatives during a recent regular meeting when they also convened the quarterly audit committee session of county officials.

According to Commissioner Roy Klopfenstein, commissioners and three county townships plan to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money for three projects. The funding split will be 50/50, he noted.

Allen County Commissioners continue working on Ohio Senate Bill 52 requirements
Hometown Stations, Feb. 8, 2022
Allen County Commissioners getting another step closer to establishing rules for big alternative power source projects.

The commissioners have been talking with all 12 townships asking what they want to see happen in their areas. Each responded with a description and map for commissioners to look over. This is all in response to Ohio Senate Bill 52 that put more responsibility into local government's hands to make the decisions for their land.

County commissioners must make important decisions with ARP funding
WTOV9, Feb. 8, 2022
Last year, U.S. President Joe Biden signed the $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act to aid public health and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now almost a year later, the guidelines on how to use those funds have been outlined by the U.S. Treasury.
And county commissioners are left with a choice of two financial plans:

"The two options for revenue loss are the standard deduction, which treasury just released not too long ago, and that is a standard $10 million set aside for general government services," Jefferson County Auditor EJ Conn said.

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Did You Know? - Crawford County

Bucyrus, whose early settlers were of German descent, hosts one of the largest bratwurst festivals in the country. The Bucyrus Bratwurst Festival has been celebrated since 1968.

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Dates to Remember

FEBRUARY 17, 2022
GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 18, 2022
CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

FEBRUARY 25, 2022
CEBCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MARCH 11. 2022
CORSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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